JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
JLA
39
MAR 00
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MORRISON
PORTER
DELL
WORLD WAR III
PART 4 OF 6
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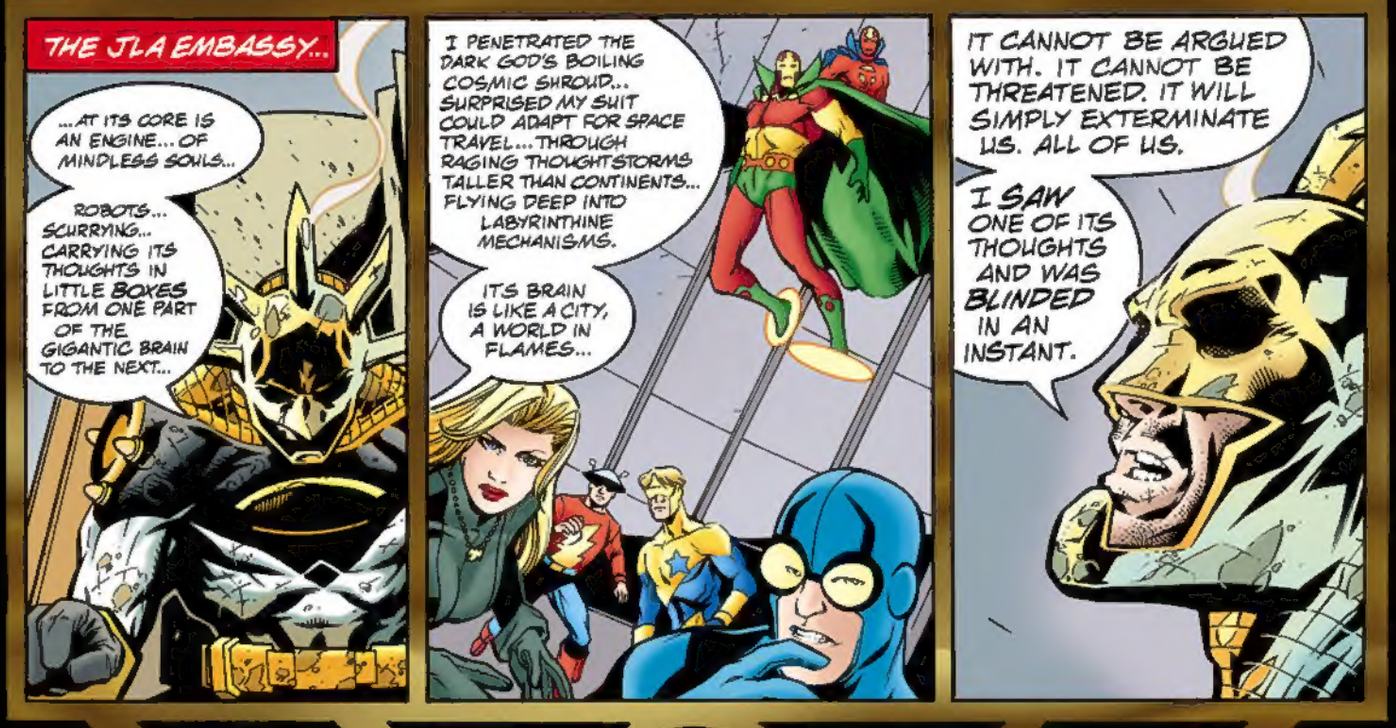

THE JLA EMBASSY...
...AT ITS CORE IS AN ENGINE... OF MINDLESS SOULS...
ROBOTS... SCURRYING... CARRYING ITS THOUGHTS IN LITTLE BOXES FROM ONE PART OF THE GIGANTIC BRAIN TO THE NEXT...
I PENETRATED THE DARK GOD'S BOILING COSMIC SHROUD... SURPRISED MY SUIT COULD ADAPT FOR SPACE TRAVEL... THROUGH RAGING THOUGHTSTORMS TALLER THAN CONTINENTS... FLYING DEEP INTO LABYRINTHINE MECHANISMS.
ITS BRAIN IS LIKE A CITY, A WORLD IN FLAMES...
IT CANNOT BE ARGUED WITH. IT CANNOT BE THREATENED. IT WILL SIMPLY EXTERMINATE US. ALL OF US.
I SAW ONE OF ITS THOUGHTS AND WAS BLINDED IN AN INSTANT.

IT'S RISING UP FROM BENEATH OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.
ALL MY LIFE, THE Q FOUNDATION TRAINED ME FOR THIS, TO FACE THE DARK GOD, TEZCATLIPOCA.
AND I FAILED.

AZTEK, HERE.
THIS DARK GOD...
HIS PEOPLE CALLED IT TEZCATLIPOCA. WE CALL IT MAGEDDON, THE PRIMORDIAL ANNIHILATOR.
IT'S NOT A GOD; IT'S A WEAPON CAPABLE OF DESTROYING GODS.
UH, HOW DOES IT FEEL ABOUT PEOPLE?
...LOST THE GUT, TED.
I'M WEARING A GIRDLE.
THOUGHT AS MUCH. NICE BRA TOO. END OF THE WORLD AGAIN?
YEAH. BWAH-HA-HA...
I DON'T LIKE FEELING SO USELESS BUT WE HAVE TO DO WHAT WE CAN DOWN HERE.
THE SUPER-VILLAINS ARE GOING CRAZY..
TELL ME ABOUT IT; I JUST STOPPED THE ROYAL FLUSH GANG FROM COMMITTING SUICIDE IN WASHINGTON.
THEY WERE GONNA USE A COBALT BOMB.
IF THESE GUYS ORGANIZED, WE'D BE DEAD.
TALKING?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JERKS SITTING HERE JAWING LIKE IT ISN'T THE END OF THE WORLD!
LET'S GET OUT THERE AND KICK SOME EVIL TAIL!
WARRIOR!
MAGEDDON'S BEHIND YOUR ANGER, GUY. WE NEED YOU FOCUSED.
THE WHOLE WORLD NEEDS US TO SAVE IT FROM ITSELF.
COSMIC ARMAGEDDON.
SO WE SPLIT INTO TEAMS, RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT WE ALWAYS DO.
BATTALIONS, THEY'RE CALLING THEM.
THIS IS WAR.

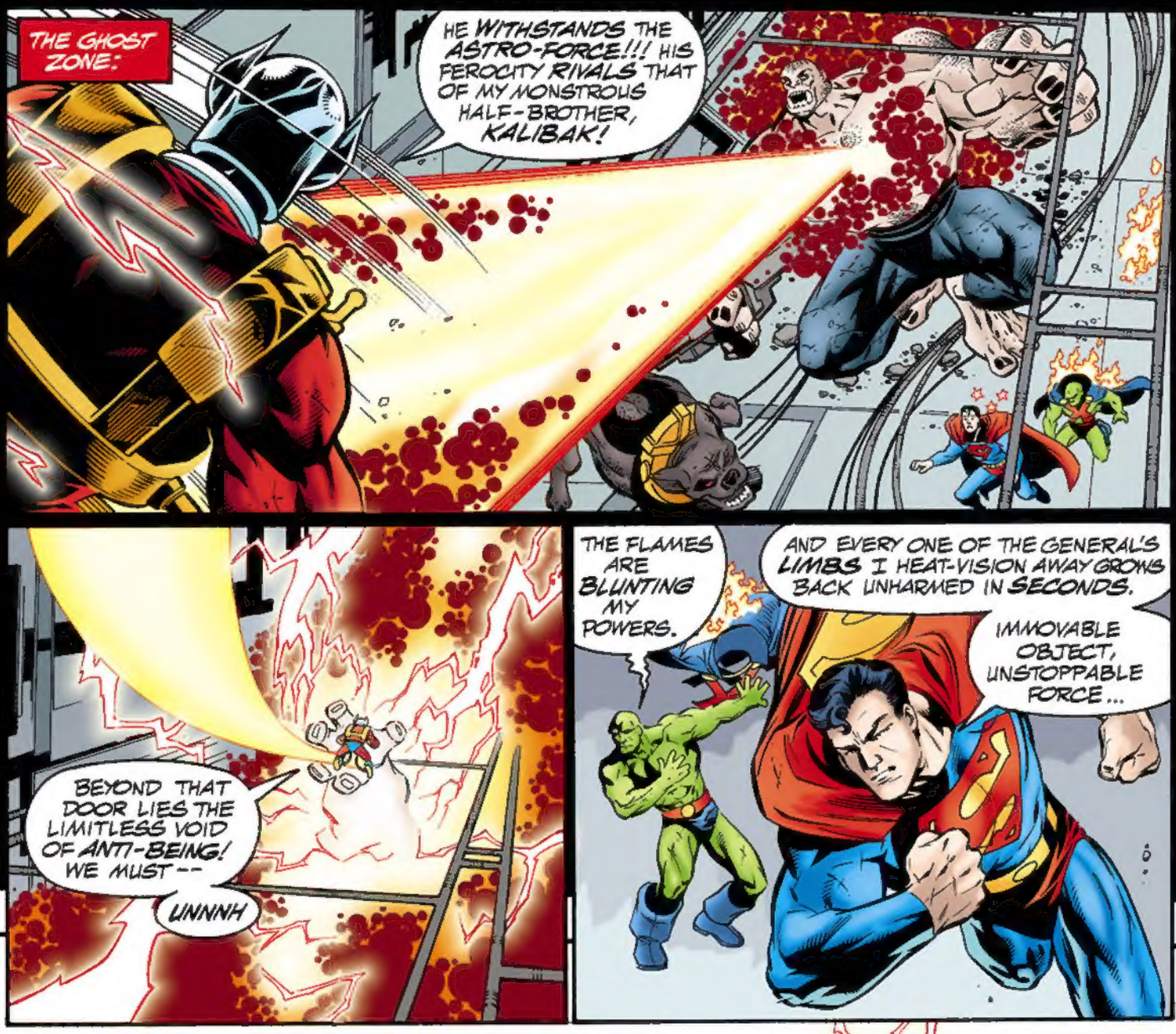
...LANTERN.
GREEN LANTERN.
REAL JLA THANK GOD.
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE WATCHTOWER?
PICTURES ON TV
LEX LUTHOR? THE BUSINESSMAN FROM METROPOLIS.
MY RESISTANCE WAS GROUND UNDER THE HEEL OF THIS SPACE MONSTROSITY.
I...I REMEMBER NOTHING...
YEAH...TAKE CARE OF HIM. HAS ANYBODY SEEN ZAURIEL?
HEARD YOU BROKE THE RING, KID...
"THE ARTIST FORMERLY KNOWN AS GREEN LANTERN," HUH?
LEAVE IT TO THE PROFESSIONALS, NEXT TIME...
YEAH, SURE.
GUY, YOU'RE GOOD IN A FIGHT, RIGHT?
I NEED SOME VOLUNTEERS FOR UPPER ATMOSPHERE WORK.
ANYBODY GOT ANY QUESTIONS, TRY LOOKING UP.
I'M JLA, GUY.
WE ARE THE PROFESSIONALS.

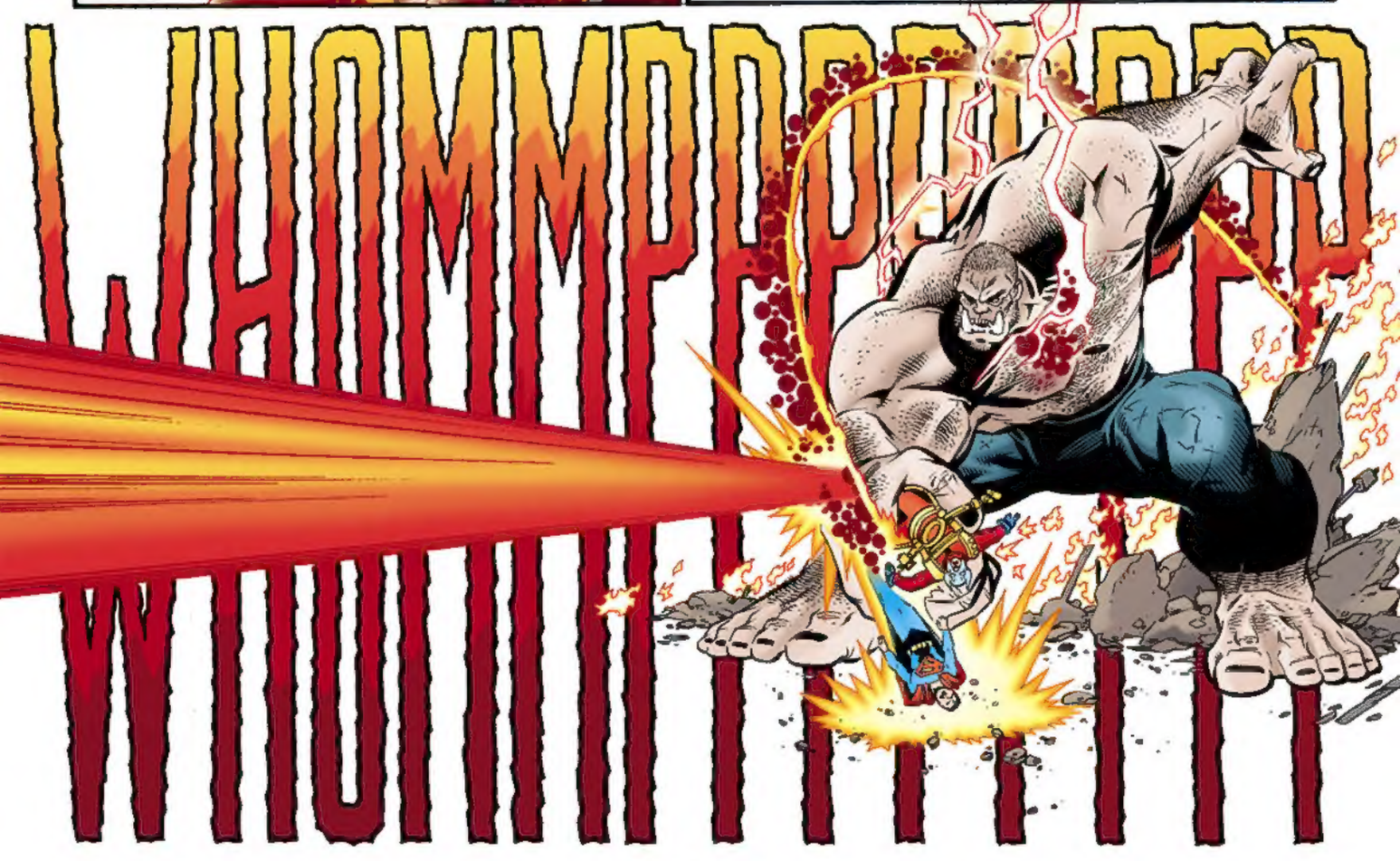
PART

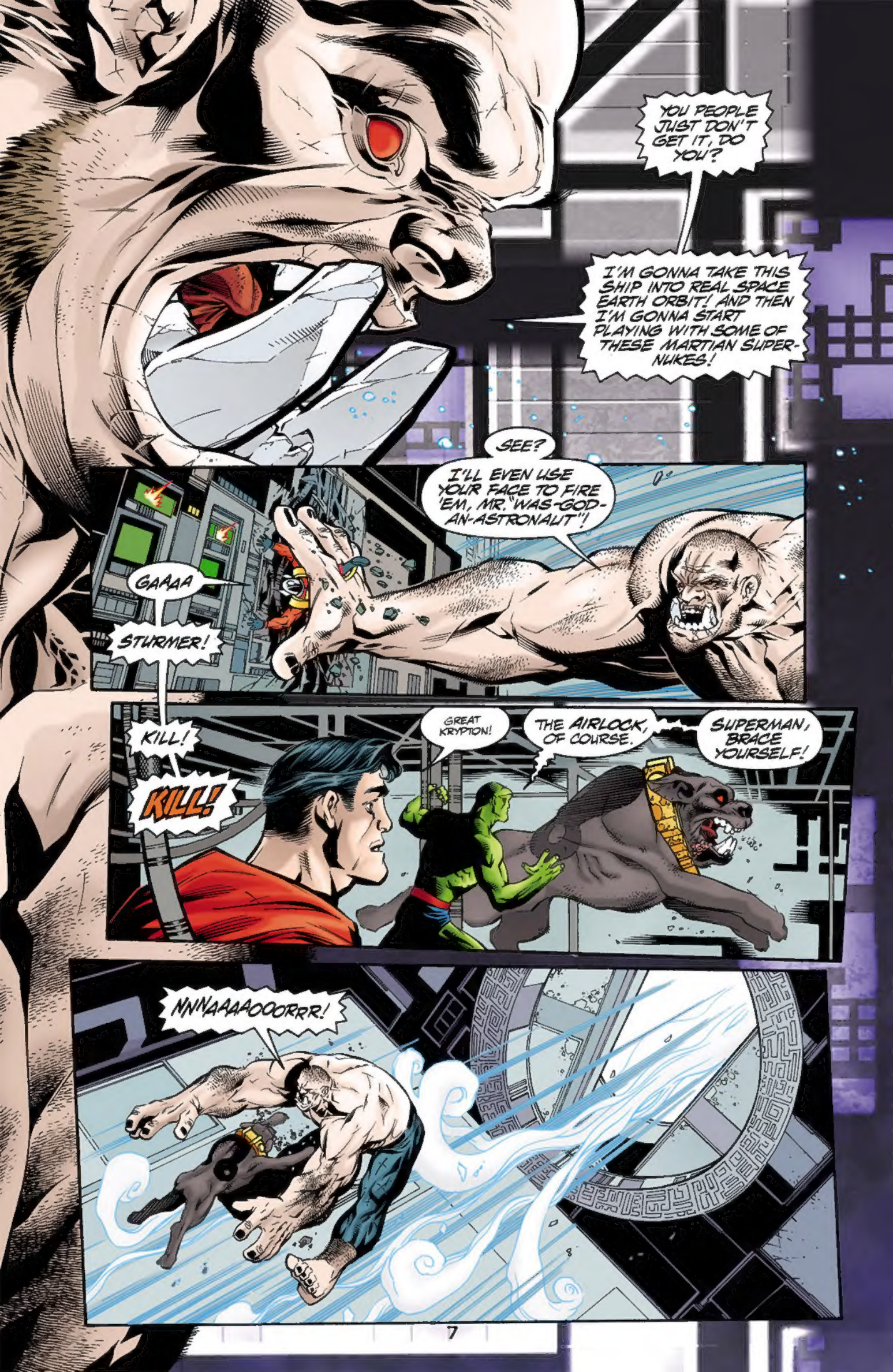
WORLD WAR THREE

FOUR

GRANT MORRISON-WRITER HOWARD PORTER-PENCILLER
JOHN DELL-INKER KEN LOPEZ-LETTERER
PAT GARRAHY-COLORIST HEROIC AGE-SEPARATOR
TONY BEDARD-ASSOC. EDITOR DAN RASPLER-EDITOR

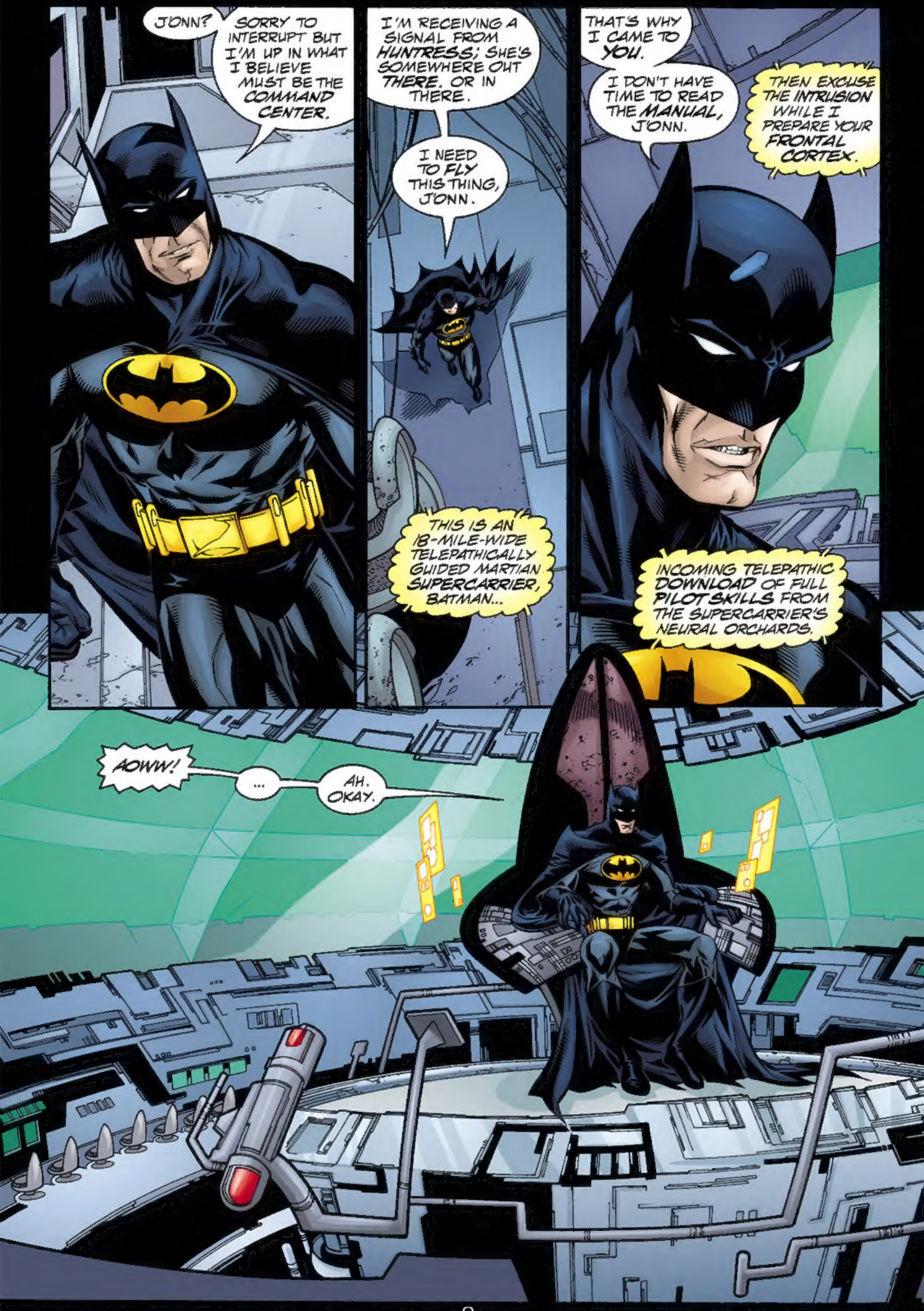

THE GHOST ZONE:
HE WITHSTANDS THE ASTRO-FORCE!!! HIS FEROCITY RIVALS THAT OF MY MONSTROUS HALF-BROTHER, KALIBAK!
BEYOND THAT DOOR LIES THE LIMITLESS VOID OF ANTI-BEING! WE MUST --
UNNNH
THE FLAMES ARE BLUNTING MY POWERS.
AND EVERY ONE OF THE GENERAL'S LIMBS I HEAT-VISION AWAY GROWS BACK UNHARMED IN SECONDS.
IMMOVABLE OBJECT, UNSTOPPABLE FORCE...


WHOMPPP


YOU PEOPLE JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
I'M GONNA TAKE THIS SHIP INTO REAL SPACE EARTH ORBIT! AND THEN I'M GONNA START PLAYING WITH SOME OF THESE MARTIAN SUPER-NUKES!
SEE?
I'LL EVEN USE YOUR FACE TO FIRE 'EM, MR. "WAS-GOD-AN-ASTRONAUT"!
GAAAA
STURMER!
KILL!
KILL!
GREAT KRYPTON!
THE AIRLOCK, OF COURSE.
SUPERMAN, BRACE YOURSELF!
NNNAAAAOOORRR!

STURMER!
NO, SUPERMAN!
STURMER WAS A PACK-COMMANDER OF THE DOG CAVALRY.
HE VOLUNTEERED TO PROTECT EARTH AT MY SIDE AND TO PERISH IN ITS DEFENSE IF NEED BE.

GONE. INTO THE ANTI-INFINITE.
AND NOW... MAGEDDON, ARCHITECT OF THIS APOCALYPSE.


J'ONN?
SORRY TO INTERRUPT BUT I'M UP IN WHAT I BELIEVE MUST BE THE COMMAND CENTER.
I'M RECEIVING A SIGNAL FROM HUNTRESS; SHE'S SOMEWHERE OUT THERE. OR IN THERE.
I NEED TO FLY THIS THING, J'ONN.
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO YOU.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO READ THE MANUAL, J'ONN.
THEN EXCUSE THE INTRUSION WHILE I PREPARE YOUR FRONTAL CORTEX.
THIS IS AN 18-MILE-WIDE TELEPATHICALLY GUIDED MARTIAN SUPERCARRIER, BATMAN...
INCOMING TELEPATHIC DOWNLOAD OF FULL PILOT SKILLS FROM THE SUPERCARRIER'S NEURAL ORCHARDS.
AOWW!
...
AH. OKAY.

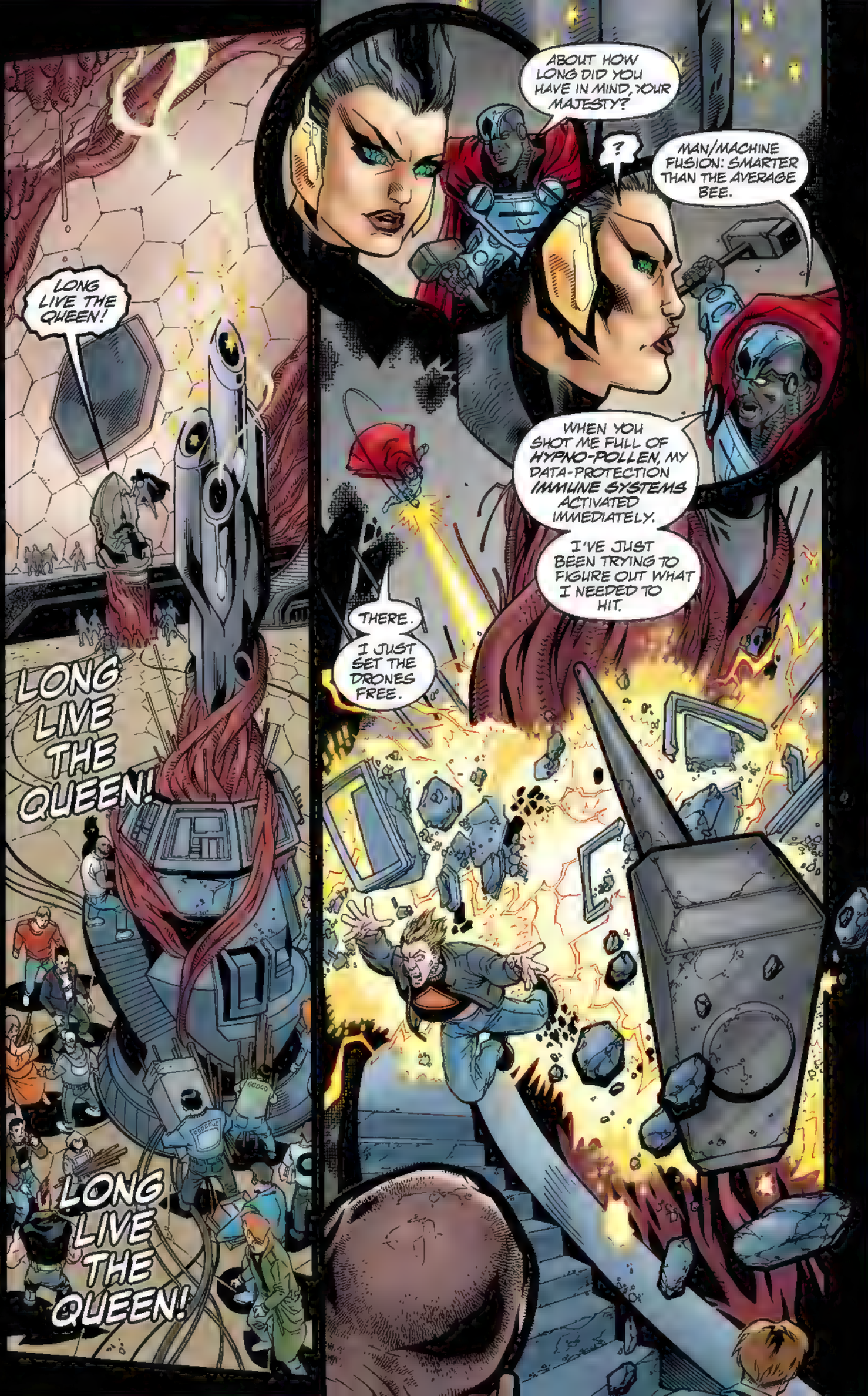
...BUT THE WATCHTOWER IS GONE--DOES THAT MEAN WE'RE STRANDED HERE IN THE ZONE?
FORTUNATELY NOT, SUPERMAN.
WE HAVE THE BOOM TUBE APPARATUS ORION BROUGHT.
EARTH IS ONLY A LOUD NOISE AWAY...
OF COURSE...
BUT SURELY THAT MEANS I COULD ALSO BOOM-TUBE DIRECTLY INTO MAGEDDON'S INNER WORKINGS?
ORION, ARE YOU WITH ME?
SUPERMAN, YOU CAN'T GO ALONE...
NOT YOU, J'ONN. YOU HAVE TO PREVENT ALL-OUT GLOBAL WAR.
ORION AND I GET FIRST CRACK AT THE GIANT MONSTER.
THIS IS WHY WE FORMED THE LEAGUE.
WE VOWED TO PROTECT THE EARTH AND ITS PEOPLE, EVEN IF IT COST OUR LIVES.
NOW WE'RE FACING THE GREATEST THREAT OF ALL. WE CAN'T FALTER.
BUT WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT MAGEDDON. THIS IS TECHNOLOGY FROM A LOST UNIVERSE.
WE KNOW NOTHING OF THE RISKS YOU COULD FACE IN THERE, SUPERMAN...
PERHAPS. BUT ONE THING WE KNOW FOR SURE: IT'S HERE TO DESTROY ALL LIFE IN ITS PATH AND THERE'S NO ONE AROUND BUT US TO STOP IT.
ACTIVATE THE BOOM TUBE, ORION.

THE CROOKED HOUSE
YOU LIKE HURTING WOMEN?
YOU LIKE TO HURT PEOPLE AND MESS THEM UP INSIDE, IS THAT WHAT YOU LIKE?
CLOSE YOUR EYES, PROMETHEUS.
THIS WON'T HURT A...
SO WHO'S SCARED NOW?
RRRRRRAMBL

WHOOM
BATMAN... I...
HE DESERVES IT, BATMAN, YOU KNOW HE DOES...
FOLLOW ME TO THE SHIP AND BRING PROMETHEUS, WE'RE GOING HOME.
AND HUNTRESS... I DON'T NEED KILLERS IN THE LEAGUE: CONSIDER YOUR JLA MEMBERSHIP REVOKED.
...WHAT...
YOU CAN'T...
YOU HEARD ME.

BOOM
AT LAST.
TO TEST MY FIRE AGAINST THE TERRIBLE HAMMER OF THE OLD GODS.
WE GO IN THERE AND WE DO THE JOB, ORION.
WHETHER THIS THING'S AIM IS THE EXTINCTION OF ALL LIFE ON EARTH OR NOT... IT'S STILL JUST A WEAPON.
IT CAN BE SHUT DOWN.
BOOM
IS THIS WISE?
IT IS UPON US, BATMAN. I FEEL THE BLACK UNDERTOW OF ITS INTELLIGENCE; THE MAGEDDON WEAPON HAS REACHED OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.
OUR LAST STAND HAS BEGUN.
HUNTRESS AND PROMETHEUS ARE SECURE.
WE SHOULD GET BACK TO EARTH NOW, J'ONN.
THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS.

NEW YORK CITY
RAGE
THERE ARE ALMOST SIX BILLION INDEPENDENT MINDSSZZ ON THISZZZ PLANET.
BY TOMORROW, THERE WILL BE NONE.


LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!
LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!
LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!
ABOUT HOW LONG DID YOU HAVE IN MIND, YOUR MAJESTY?
?
MAN/MACHINE FUSION: SMARTER THAN THE AVERAGE BEE.
WHEN YOU SHOT ME FULL OF HYPNO-POLLEN, MY DATA-PROTECTION IMMUNE SYSTEMS ACTIVATED IMMEDIATELY.
I'VE JUST BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT I NEEDED TO HIT.
THERE.
I JUST SET THE DRONES FREE.

NOW, BARDA!
WHILE THESE PEOPLE ARE FREE FROM HER SPELL!
I DON'T NEED INSTRUCTIONS, WONDER WOMAN.
WE ARE BETRAYED!
HOW DARE YOU THREATEN OUR UNITY!
SO LIFE IS UNFAIR!
KILL YOURSELF OR GET OVER--
USSSHHHUUHHCH

WOKK
URRN
HER STRENGTH IS INCREDIBLE!
PLASTIC MAN HAD A PLAN...
WHAT PLAN?
ASK HIM...
HE'S THE RED, YELLOW AND PINK LAVA-LAMP CATASTROPHE RIGHT HERE.
THE OMNIMATRIX IS THREATENED!
YOU'D BE FUNNY IF YOU WEREN'T SO... UNFUNNY, STEEL.
HER FLEET IS ON ITS WAY! WE HAVE MINUTES TO STOP A LETHAL CLASH OF INTERSTELLAR CULTURES!
THINK FAST.
YOU WOUND ME, BARDA.
NO.
WHEN I WOUND YOU, YOU STAY WOUNDED.
WHUH-KRAKK!

GOTHAM CITY
BUT I HAVE A MOTHER BOX.
A LIVING COMPUTER FROM NEW GENESIS.
PING PING PING
IT'S THE MOST... BEAUTIFUL THING... LIKE THE BOX MY MOM KEPT HER JEWELRY IN... BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT...
THIS IS ORACLE ONLINE.
OKAY, I JUST SURVIVED A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH PROMETHEUS AND HE WRECKED MY EQUIPMENT, BUT...
OH MY GOD. IT'S BONDING WITH MY TECHNOLOGY... IT'S UPGRADING TO...
LOOK AT THE LIGHT... IS THAT IN MY...
...HEAD...
...OH... DIGITAL TELEPATHY... OH MY...
I CAN FEEL YOU ALL.
THIS IS ORACLE AND WE ARE CONNECTED.

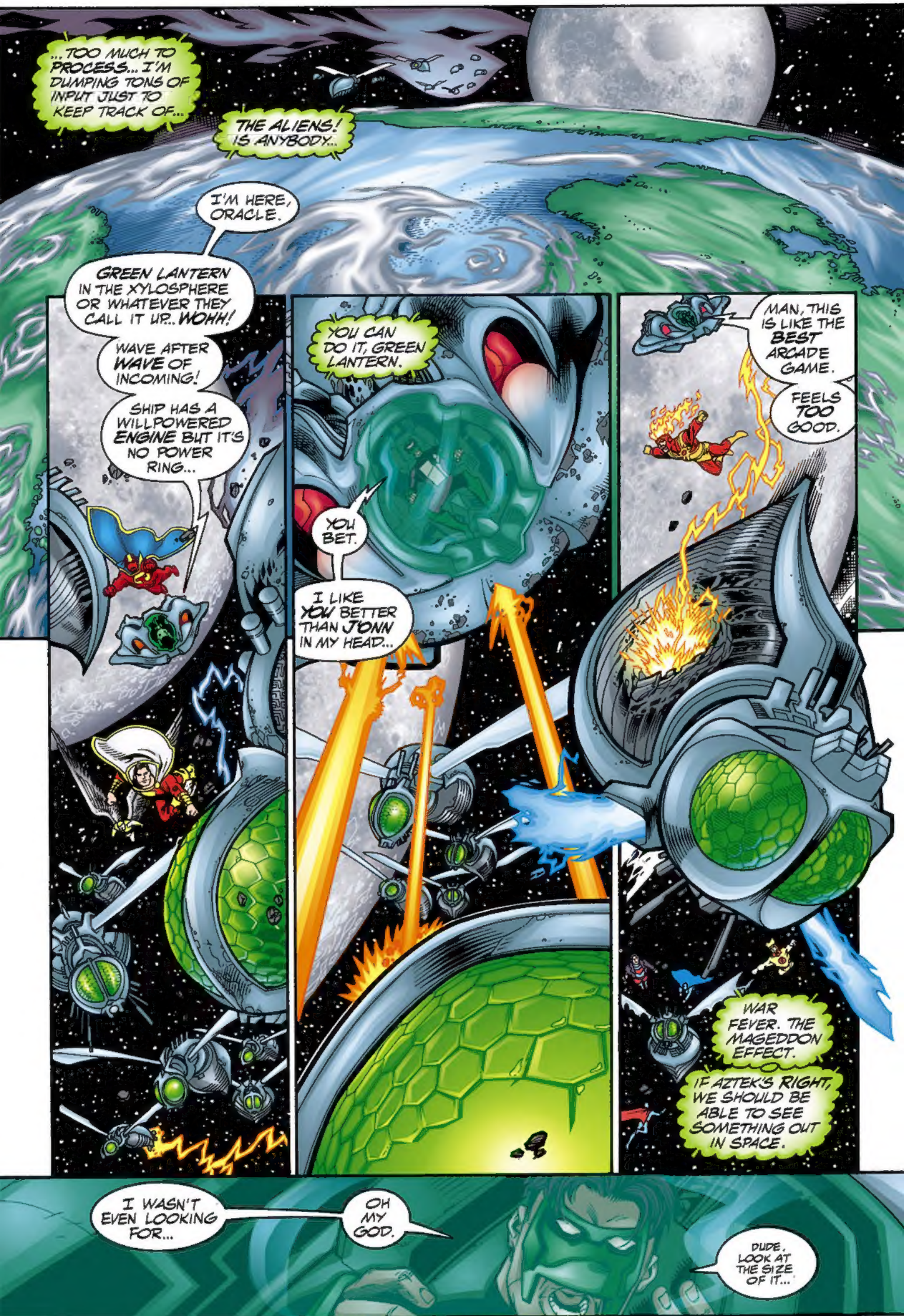
METROPOLIS, USA

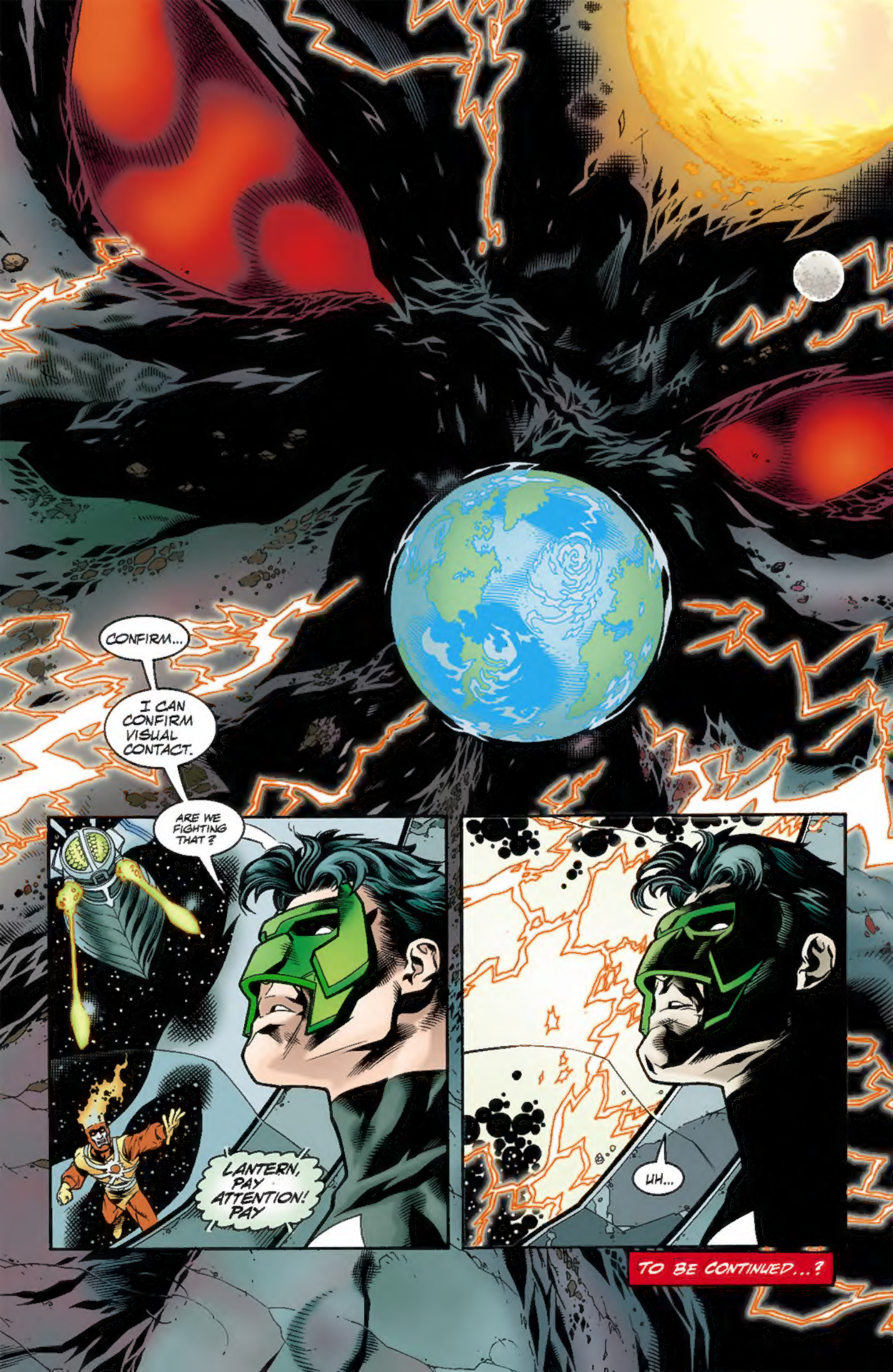
ORACLE ONLINE AND IN YOUR HEAD!

TROOPS ON THE MARCH! BOMBERS IN THE AIR! THE ALARMS ARE COMING FROM EVERYWHERE!

THIS IS WORLD WAR THREE!

NOT IF WE CAN HELP IT.


...TOO MUCH TO PROCESS... I'M DUMPING TONS OF INPUT JUST TO KEEP TRACK OF...
THE ALIENS! IS ANYBODY...
I'M HERE, ORACLE.
GREEN LANTERN IN THE XYLOSPHERE OR WHATEVER THEY CALL IT UP.. WOHH!
WAVE AFTER WAVE OF INCOMING!
SHIP HAS A WILLPOWERED ENGINE BUT IT'S NO POWER RING...
YOU CAN DO IT, GREEN LANTERN.
YOU BET.
I LIKE YOU BETTER THAN JONN IN MY HEAD...
MAN, THIS IS LIKE THE BEST ARCADE GAME.
FEELS TOO GOOD.
WAR FEVER. THE MAGEDDON EFFECT.
IF AZTEK'S RIGHT, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE SOMETHING OUT IN SPACE.
I WASN'T EVEN LOOKING FOR...
OH MY GOD.
DUDE. LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT...


CONFIRM...
I CAN CONFIRM VISUAL CONTACT.
ARE WE FIGHTING THAT?
LANTERN, PAY ATTENTION! PAY
UH...
TO BE CONTINUED...?

" [A] comic legend."
– ROLLING STONE

GRANT MORRISON

"[Grant Morrison is] comics's high shaman."
– WASHINGTON POST

"[Grant Morrison] is probably my favorite writer. That guy has more ideas in his pinky than most people do in a lifetime."
– GERARD WAY
from MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE

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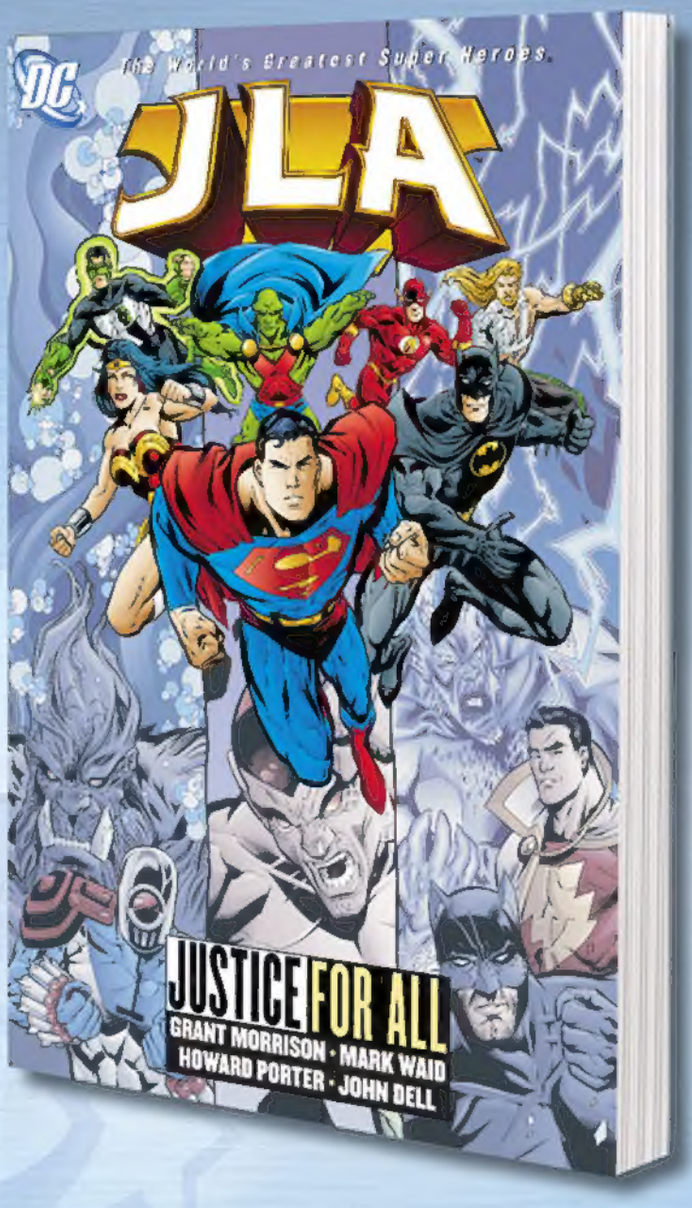

JLA VOL. 2:
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